

BEFORE THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

RESOLUTION NO. 05-027

Authorizing Alternative Disposition of the Morrison Building

The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Finds:

- a. In March 2002, by Resolution 02-032, the Board resolved to dispose of certain county-owned property deemed surplus, including the Morrison Building, located at 2115 SE Morrison Street.
- b. Commissioner Rojo de Steffey facilitated a public hearing on January 21, 2004 regarding the disposition of the Morrison property and to invite public comment. Many concerns were raised because of the Morrison property's close proximity to the Lone Fir Cemetery.
- c. On March 4, 2004, by Resolution 04-022, the Board created the Morrison Property Task Force. The Task Force included local government representatives and community leaders. It was chaired by Commissioner Rojo de Steffey and tasked with assessing all disposition options and devising a plan for disposition of the Morrison property that enhances the Buckman neighborhood and is in the best interest of the county.
- d. After meeting once a month for nine months the Taskforce has completed its work and presented it to the Board on November 23, 2004. One of its recommendations is that the county provide a six month period while a community-driven plan is developed. This plan will present a concept design and finance strategy for the property, including demolition of the Morrison Building and site improvements.
- e. On December 9, 2004, by Resolution 04-182, the Board resolved to accept the recommendation of the Taskforce and take no action to dispose of the property to allow the community committee to develop a plan. Commissioner Rojo de Steffey was directed to be the county liaison for the community during this six month period.
- f. The Morrison property was once part of the Lone Fir Cemetery. Many individuals, including Chinese immigrant railroad workers, were buried on the site.
- g. It was believed that all of the Chinese burials were disinterred and returned to China.
- h. The Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association believed that although many of the men had been disinterred and returned to China, women and children were not returned and still remained on the Morrison property.

- i. In January, 2005, Commissioner Rojo de Steffey oversaw an excavation of three sites on the property to determine whether any human remains were still on the property.
- j. Human remains were found on the property along with many artifacts including Chinese grave markers.
- k. By state law, the recent developments will designate portions of the Morrison Property as an official archaeological site.

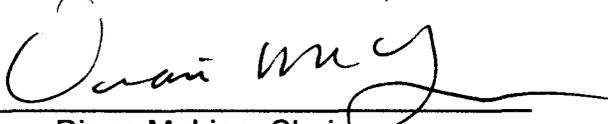
The Multnomah County Board of Commissioners Resolves:

- 1. The Morrison building is no longer subject to the goals and criteria regarding the disposition of surplus property as described in Resolution 02-032.
- 2. Multnomah County will assume responsibility for demolition of the Morrison Building.
- 3. Commissioner Rojo de Steffey is designated to work with the proper authorities to determine the boundaries of the designated Archaeological Site, examine the restrictions that apply to such designation and report back to the Board of County Commissioners.
- 4. The Facilities Management Director and the CFO are directed to build a funding plan for demolition of the building and report back to the Board of County Commissioners.

ADOPTED this 10th day of February 2005.



BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON



Diane M. Linn, Chair

REVIEWED:

AGNES SOWLE, COUNTY ATTORNEY
FOR MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

By 

Christopher D. Crean, Assistant County Attorney